Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1284

SECRET CARACAS 13190

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, VE

SUBJECT: US ACTION ON VENEZUELA'S VOTING PATTERN IN 30TH UNGA

REF: STATE 290739; CARACAS 11952

- 1. ON DECEMBER 11 POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLEAR TO AMBASSADOR LEONARDO DIAZ GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, OUR CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS WITH THE GOV'S UN VOTING PATTERN. DIAZ GONZALEZ, RATHER SURPRISINGLY, RESPONDED THAT HE QUITE UNDERSTOOD THE US POSITION.
- 2. DIAZ GONZALEZ REMARKED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR AND HIS ADVISORS (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING DIAZ GONZALEZ HIMSELF) HAD NOT FAVORED THE GOV VOTE ON THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION, BUT HAD BEEN OVERRULED. (THIS IS THE FIRST DIRECT ADMISSION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM A FONMINISTRY SOURCE THAT THE GOV DECISION ON THAT VOTE HAD BEEN MADE ELSEWHERE, I.E., BY MINISTER OF STATE MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, AS REPORTED CARACAS 11952.) DIAZ GONZALEZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ IS CONCERNED AT THE CONFRONTATIONAL EFFECT OF VENEZUELA'S VOTING IN THE UN, HAD ASKED FOR A REVIEW OF THE MATTER, AND HAD INSTRUCTED VENEZUELA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UN, SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI, TO MAKE AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO THE UNGA ON DECEMBER 12 ABOUT VENEZUELA'S VOTING RECORD. DIAZ GONZALEZ SAID THAT BOTH ESCOVAR AND CONSALVI HAD RESISTED THIS INSTRUCTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT VENEZUELA HAS SELDOM IF EVER OFFERED PUBLIC EXPLANATIONS OF ITS VOTES IN THE UN, BUT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD INSISTED.

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3. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE TEXT OF CONSALVI'S
REMARKS TO THE UNGA.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MEETING VOTING RECORDS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS

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